

REMARKS1. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claim 12 was amended because it encompassed compounds not within the scope of claim 1, the independent claim from which it depends. Specifically, claim 12 included compounds having an alkyl spacer between the variable R<sub>C</sub> and the core, while such compounds are not encompassed by claim 1 as it was restricted during prosecution. Consequently, claim 12 has been amended herein by removing the compounds that have an alkyl spacer between the variable R<sub>C</sub> and the core. Claim 12 now properly depends from claim 1, and claim 12 is now patentable.

In addition, the following compounds were each named twice in claim 12: N-[(1S,2R)-1-(3,5-difluorobenzyl)-3-[(6-ethyl-2,2-dioxido-3,4-dihydro-1H-isothiochromen-4-yl)amino]-2-hydroxypropyl]acetamide and N-[(1S,2R)-1-(3,5-difluorobenzyl)-3-[(6-ethyl-2,2-dioxido-3,4-dihydro-1,2-benzoxathiin-4-yl)amino]-2-hydroxypropyl}. The second occurrence of each name was removed.

Applicants further note that certain amendments to the claims were made via an Examiner's Amendment mailed March 6, 2006. Consequently, the above claims already contain the Examiner's amendments. Applicants also corrected any minor typographical errors that they found.

Additionally, the -(C=S)- group was removed from the definition of the variable X in claim 1. This group appears to have been added when the response mailed May 26, 2005, was submitted, but the status of the claim was incorrectly identified as original. As a result, the Applicants are voluntarily withdrawing this group.

And finally, claim 12 was converted to an independent claim because it covers three (3) compounds where the Z group is outside the scope of claim 1. Specifically, N-[1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-3-(6-ethyl-2,2-dioxo-2 λ<sup>6</sup>-isothiochroman-4-ylamino)-2-hydroxy-propyl]-2-phenyl-acetamide; {[1-(3,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-3-(6-ethyl-2,2-dioxo-2 λ<sup>6</sup>-isothiochroman-4-ylamino)-2-hydroxy-propylcarbamoyl]-methyl}-methyl-carbamic acid tert-butyl ester; and N-[1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-3-(6-ethyl-2,2-dioxo-2 λ<sup>6</sup>-isothiochroman-4-ylamino)-2-hydroxy-propyl]-2-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)-acetamide have Z groups not covered by claim 1.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully contend that all requirements of patentability have been met. Allowance of the claims and passage of the case to issue are therefore respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe a discussion of this matter would be helpful, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (312) 913-2114.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 8, 2007

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